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Short Bio and Qualifications: Dr. Lei Zhang is an Associate Professor and Director of Transportation Engineering Program in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Maryland. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Tsinghua University, and his M.S. degrees in Civil Engineering and Applied Economics and a Ph.D. degree in Transportation Engineering from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Zhang has published more than 130 peer-reviewed journal and conference papers on transportation planning, transportation economics and policy, travel behavior, transportation data and survey methods, and traffic operations. He directs the USDOT National Center for Strategic Transportation Policies, Investments and Decisions that involves seven member universities. Dr. Zhang is the PI on 37 externally funded research projects with more than \$17 million in total funding. Dr. Zhang is a Member of four Transportation Research Board (TRB) Committees, and the General Secretary of the World Society on Transport and Land Use Research. He recently served as the Chair of the Transportation Science and Logistics Cluster of the Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences, and Chair of several international conferences and USDOT Expert Panels. Dr. Zhang is a recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the TRB Fred Burggraf Research Award, and several international best paper awards.

Envisioned Commitment for the Position: I have had the honor and pleasure to serve on the COTA Board of Directors (BOD) since January 2010. My primary contribution to the COTA community include organizing COTA Winter Symposia at TRB, organizing COTA-ITE Joint Session at ITE annual meetings, chairing the 2013 OTA Summer Conference, serving as the Secretary and then Academic Committee Chair on the COTA BOD, and promoting COTA to all stakeholder groups and external partners internationally. During my four-year tenure on the BOD, I have enjoyed working with a group of like-minded colleagues and friends. Service on various COTA events and activities has proved invaluable in my development as a transportation professional. I have benefited both professionally and personally from many people I have come to meet or deepen friendship with during these events. My term on the COTA Board ends this year, and I have decided to run for the BOD membership again to continue serving this great organization. My envisioned commitment if I am re-elected to the BOD include at a minimum:

- Continue serving COTA Board and Members as Academic Committee Chair or in another position on the Board as seen fit by the COTA President;
- Continue serving as the DC local liaison for COTA;

- Continue providing support and assistance to the organization of COTA Winter Symposia and reception events at TRB;
- Continue serving COTA and its members in other activities both proactively and if called for by the Board;
- Establishing COTA Technical Committees in various specialty areas and help Technical Committee Chairs recruit members;
- Help COTA grow as a professional organization by more actively involving international chapters, student chapters, and building strong ties with government and non-government agencies in China and U.S.;
- Continuously strengthening the ties between COTA and professional organizations and publishers such as ASCE, TRB, IEEE, Elsevier etc..

Thank you for your consideration and I hope to have your vote!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zhang Lei', written in a cursive style.

Lei Zhang